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LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT
OF
GEORGE WASHINGTON
OF MOUNT VERNON



THE ONLY AUTHENTICATED COPY, FULL AND
COMPLETE, EMBRACING A SCHEDULE OF HIS
REAL ESTATE, AND EXPLANATORY NOTES
THERETO BY THE TESTATOR; TO WHICH IS
ADDED IMPORTANT HISTORICAL NOTES, BIO-
GRAPHICAL SKETCHES, AND ANECDOTES



PRESENTED BY MR. HEYBURN
August 5, 1911.—Ordered to be printed, with illustrations

WASHINGTON
1911

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563

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TO ALL, WHO CHERISH THE BLESSED MEMORY OF THE GREAT AND
GOOD WASHINGTON,

"THE FATHER OF HIS COUNTRY,"

"THE FOUNDER OF LIBERTY,"

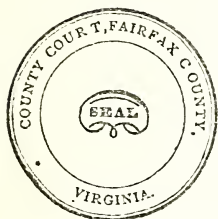
"THE FRIEND AND BENEFactor OF MANKIND,"

THIS LITTLE VOLUME IS RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED.

THE WILL, ETC., ETC.

STATE OF VIRGINIA. }
FAIRFAX COUNTY, } To Wit :

I Ferdinand D. Richardson
Clerk of the County Court of said County,
do hereby Certify that, this Copy of the
Last Will and Testament of General
George Washington with the Schedule
and his notes thereto attached, has
been carefully examined and compared
with the Original now on file in my
Office among the Records of the said
Court, and further, that, I find the
same to be in all respects a correct
copy of the same.



*In Testimony whereof
I have hereunto subscribed
my name and affixed the
seal of the said Court this
14 day of April A D 1868,
and in the 92 year of the
Commonwealth.*

F. D. RICHARDSON c c

IN THE NAME OF GOD, AMEN!

I GEORGE WASHINGTON ¹ of Mount Vernon,² a citizen of the United States and lately President of the same do make ordain and declare this Instrument, which is written with my own hand and every page ³ thereof subscribed with my name to be my last Will & Testament,⁴ revoking all others.

—*Imprimus*—All my debts, of which there are but few, and none of magnitude, are to be punctually and speedily paid, and the legacies hereinafter bequeathed are to be discharged as soon as circumstances will permit, and in the manner directed.

ITEM—To my dearly beloved wife, Martha Washington ⁵ I give and bequeath the use profit and benefit of my whole Estate, real and personal, for the term of her natural life, except such parts thereof as are specially disposed of hereafter,—My improved lot in the Town of Alexandria, situated on Pitt and Cameron Streets, I give to her & her heirs forever, as I also do my

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "G Washington". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned at the bottom right of the page, below the main body of text.

household and kitchen furniture of every sort and kind with the liquors and groceries which may be on hand at the time of my decease, to be used and disposed of as she may think proper.

ITEM--Upon the decease of wife it is my will and desire, that all the slaves which I hold in *my own right* shall receive their freedom ⁶—To emancipate them during her life, would tho earnestly wished by me, be attended with such insuperable difficulties, on account of their intermixture by marriages with the Dower negroes ⁷ as to excite the most painful sensations,—if not disagreeable consequences from the later while both descriptions are in the occupancy of the same proprietor, it not being in my power under the tenure by which the dower Negroes are held to manumit them—And whereas among those who will receive freedom according to this devise there may be some who from old age, or bodily infirmities & others who on account of their infancy, that will be unable to support themselves,⁸ it is my will and desire that all who come under the first and second description shall be comfortably clothed and fed by my heirs while they live and

E. Washington

that such of the latter description as have no parents living, or if living are unable, or unwilling to provide for them, shall be bound by the Court until they shall arrive at the age of twenty five years, and in cases where no record can be produced whereby their ages can be ascertained, the Judgment of the Court upon it's own view of the subject shall be adequate and final.—The negroes thus bound are (by their masters or mistresses) to be taught to read and write⁹ and to be brought up to some useful occupation, agreeably to the laws of the commonwealth of Virginia, providing for the support of orphans and other poor children—and I do hereby expressly forbid the sale or transportation out of the said Commonwealth of any Slave I may die possessed *of*, under any pretence, whatsoever—and I do moreover most positively, and most solemnly enjoin it upon my Executors hereafter named, or the survivors of them to see that *this* clause respecting slaves and every part thereof be religiously fulfilled at the Epoch at which it is directed to take place without evasion neglect or delay after the crops which may then may be on the ground are harvested, particularly as it respects—

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "George Washington". The signature is written in dark ink and features a prominent, stylized flourish at the end of the name.

the aged and infirm, seeing that a regular and permanent fund be established for their support so long as there are subjects requiring it, not trusting to the uncertain provisions to be made by individuals.——And to my mulatto man, William (calling himself William Lee¹⁰) I give immediate freedom or if he should prefer it (on account of the accidents which have befallen him and which have rendered him incapable of walking or of any active employment) to remain in the situation he now is, it shall be optional in him to do so—In either case however I allow him an annuity of thirty dollars during his natural life which shall be independent of the victuals and *cloaths* he has been accustomed to receive; If he *chuses* the last alternative, but in full with his freedom, if he prefers the first, and this I give him as a testimony of my sense of his attachment to me and for his faithful services during the revolutionary War.

ITEM—To the Trustees, (Governors or by whatsoever other name they may be designated) of the Academy in the Town of Alexandria,¹¹ I give and bequeath, in Trust, Four thousand dollars, or in other words twenty of the shares which I

G. Washington

hold in the Bank of Alexandria towards the support of a Free School, established at, and annexed to the said Academy for the purpose of educating such orphan children, or the children of such other poor and indigent persons as are unable to accomplish it with their own means, and who in the judgment of the trustees of the said Seminary, are best entitled to the benefit of this donation——

The aforesaid twenty shares

I give and bequeath in perpetuity—the dividends only of which are to be drawn for and applied by the said Trustees for the time being, for the uses above mentioned, the stock to remain entire and untouched unless indications of a failure of the said Bank should be so apparent or discontinuance thereof should render a removal of this fund necessary, in either of these cases the amount of the stock here devised is to be vested in some other bank or public institution whereby the interest may with regularity and certainty be drawn and applied as above.—And to prevent misconception, my meaning is, and is hereby declared to be that, these twenty shares are in lieu of and not in addition to the Thousand pounds given by a missive letter some years ago in consequence whereof an an-

G. Washington

-nuity of fifty pounds has since been paid toward the support of this institution

ITEM—Whereas by a law of the Commonwealth of Virginia, enacted in the year 1785, the Legislature thereof was pleased (as an evidence of it's approbation of the services I had rendered the public during the Revolution—and partly, I believe in consideration of my having suggested the vast advantages which the community would derive from the extension of its Inland navigation, under Legislative patronage) to present me with one hundred shares, of one hundred dollars each, in the incorporated company established for the purpose of extending the navigation of James River from tide water to the mountains; and also with fifty shares of one hundred pounds sterling each in the corporation of another company likewise established for the similar purpose of opening the navigation of the River Potomac from tide water to Fort Cumberland;¹² the acceptance of which, although the offer was highly honorable and grateful to my feelings, was refused, as inconsistent with a principle which I had adop-

George Washington

-ted, and had never departed from, namely not to receive pecuniary compensation for any services I could render my country in it's arduous struggle with Great Britain for it's Rights; and because I had evaded similar propositions from other States in the Union—adding to this refusal however an intimation, that, if it should be the pleasure of the Legislature to permit me to appropriate the said shares to *public uses*, I would receive them on those terms with due sensibility—and this it having consented to in flattering terms, as will appear by a subsequent law and sundry resolutions, in the most ample and honorable manner, I proceed after this recital for the more correct understanding of the case to declare—

That as it has always been a source of serious regret with me to see the youth of these United States sent to foreign countries for the purpose of education, often before their minds were formed or they had imbibed any adequate ideas of the happiness of their own, contracting too frequently not only habits of dissipation and *extravagance*, but principles unfriendly to Republican Government and to the true and genuine liberties

George Washington

of mankind, which thereafter are rarely overcome.—For these reasons it has been my ardent wish to see a plan devised on a liberal scale which would have a tendency to spread systematic ideas through all parts of this rising Empire, thereby to do away local attachments and State prejudices as far as the nature of things would, or indeed ought to admit, from our national councils—
—Looking anxiously forward to the accomplishment of so desirable an object as this is, (in my estimation) my mind has not been able to contemplate any plan more likely to effect the measure than the establishment of a University in a central part of the United States to which the youth of fortune and talents from all parts thereof might be sent for the completion of their education in all the branches of polite literature in arts and sciences—in acquiring knowledge in the principles of Politics and good Government—and (as a matter of infinite importance in my judgment) by associating with each other and forming friendships in Juvenile years, be enabled to free themselves in a proper degree from those local prejudices and habit-

E. S. Livingston

-ual jealousies which have just been mentioned and which when carried to excess are never failing sources of disquietude to the Public mind and pregnant of mischievous consequences to this country:—Under these impressions so fully dilated,—

ITEM—I give and bequeath in perpetuity the fifty shares which I hold in the Potomac Company (under the aforesaid Acts of the Legislature of Virginia) towards the endowment of a University ¹³ to be established within the limits of the District of Columbia, under the auspices of the General Government, if that Government should incline to extend a fostering hand towards it, —and until such seminary is established, and the funds arising on these shares shall be required for its support, my further will and desire is that the profit accruing therefrom shall whenever the dividends are made, be laid out in purchasing stock in the Bank of Columbia or some other Bank at the discretion of my Executors, or by the Treasurer of the United States for the time being under the direction of Congress, provided that Honorable body should

G. Washington

patronize the measure. And the dividends proceeding from the purchase of such Stock is to be vested in more Stock and so on until a sum adequate to the accomplishment of the object is obtained, of which I have not the smallest doubt before many years pass away, even if no aid or *encouraged* is given by Legislative authority or from any other source.

ITEM—The hundred shares which I held in the James River Company I have given and now confirm in perpetuity to and for the use and benefit of Liberty Hall Academy¹⁴ in the County of Rockbridge, in the Commonwealth of *Virga*

ITEM—I release exonerate and discharge the estate of my deceased brother, Samuel Washington from the payment, of the money which is due to me for the land I sold to Philip Pendleton (lying in the county of Berkley) who assigned the same to him the said Samuel, who by agreement was to pay me therefor.—And whereas by some contract (the purport of which was never communicated to me) between the said Samuel and his son Thornton Washington, the latter became possessed of the aforesaid land without

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "G. Washington". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned at the bottom right of the page.

any conveyance having passed from me either to the said Pendleton the said Samuel or the said Thornton and without any consideration having been made, by which neglect neither the legal or equitable title has been alienated;—it rests therefore with me to declare my intentions concerning the premises—And these are to give and bequeath the said land to whomsoever the said Thornton Washington (who is also dead) devised the same or to his heirs forever, if he died intestate.—Exonerating the estate of the said Thornton, equally with that of the said Samuel from payment of the purchase-money, which with Interest agreeably to the original contract with the said Pendleton would amount to more than a thousand pounds¹⁵ ———And whereas two other sons of my said deceased brother Samuel,—namely, George Steptoe Washington and Laurence Augustine Washington were by the decease of those to whose care they were committed, brought under my protection, and in consequence have occasioned advances on my part for their education at college and other schools for their board *cloathing* and other incidental expenses to the amount of near



five thousand dollars over and above the sums furnished by their estate, *which* sum may be inconvenient for them or their father's Estate to refund.— I do for these reasons acquit them and the said Estate from the payment thereof.—My intention being that all accounts between them and me and their father's Estate and me shall stand balanced.—

ITEM—The balance due to me from the Estate of Bartholomew Dandridge deceased, (my wife's brother) and which amounted on the first day of October, 1795, to Four hundred and twenty five pounds (as will appear by an account rendered by his deceased son, John Dandridge, who was the acting Executor of his father's will) I release & acquit from the payment thereof.—And the *negros* (then thirty three in number) formerly belonging to the said Estate who were taken in Execution,—sold—purchased in, on my account in the year and ever since have remained in the possession and to the use of Mary, widow of the said Bartholomew Dandridge with their increase, it is my will and desire, shall continue and be in her possession, without paying hire or making

G. Washington

compensation for the same for the time past or to come during her natural life, at the expiration of which, I direct that all of them who are forty years old and upwards shall receive their freedom, all under that age and above sixteen shall serve seven years and no longer, and all under sixteen years shall serve until they are twenty-five years of age and then be free.¹⁶—And to avoid disputes respecting the ages of any of these *negros* they are to be taken to the Court of the County in which they reside and the judgment thereof in this relation shall be final and a record thereof made, which may be adduced as evidence at any time thereafter if disputes should arise concerning the same. —And I further direct that the heirs of the said Bartholomew Dandridge shall equally share the benefits arising from the services of the said *negros* according to the tenor of this devise upon the decease of their mother.

ITEM—If Charles Carter who inter-married with my niece, Betty Lewis, is not sufficiently secured in the title to the lots he had of me in the town of Fredericksburg, it is my will and desire that my Executors shall make such conveyances

G. Washington

of them as the law requires to render it perfect.—

ITEM—To my nephew, Wm. Augustine Washington and his heirs (if he should conceive them to be objects worth prosecuting) *and to his heirs* a lot in the town of Manchester (opposite to Richmond) No. 265—drawn on my sole account and also the tenth of one or two hundred acre lots and two or three half acre lots in the city and *vicinity* of Richmond, drawn in partnership with nine others, all in the lottery of the deceased William Byrd are given.—as is also a lot which I purchased of John Hood conveyed by William Willie and Saml Gordon Trustees of the said John Hood, numbered 139 in the town of Edenburgh in the County of Prince George, State of Virginia.

ITEM—To my nephew, Bushrod Washington¹⁷
I give and bequeath all the papers in my possession which relate to my civil and military administration of the affairs of this Country:—I leave to him also such of my private papers as are worth preserving;—and at the decease of—wife and before, if she is not inclined to retain them, I give and bequeath my library of Books and pamphlets of every kind.



ITEM—Having sold lands which I possessed in the State of Pennsylvania and part of a tract held in equal right, with George Clinton, late Governor of New York, in the State of New-York;—My share of land and interest in the great Dismal Swamp and a tract of land which I owned in the County of Gloucester;—withholding the legal titles thereto until the consideration money should be paid—And having moreover leased and conditionally sold, (as will appear by the tenor of the said leases) all my lands upon the Great *Kanhawa*¹⁸ and the tract upon Difficult Run in the County of Loudon,¹⁹ it is my will and direction that whensoever the contracts are fully and respectively complied with according to the spirit, true intent, and meaning thereof on the part of the purchasers, their heirs, or assigns, that then and in that case conveyances are to be made agreeably to the terms of the said contracts and the money arising therefrom when paid to be vested in Bank Stock, the dividends whereof, as of that also which is already vested therein, is to inure to my said wife during her life but the Stock its'self is to remain &

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be subject to the general distribution hereafter directed.-----

ITEM—To the Earl of Buchan I recommit, “The Box made of the Oak that “sheltered the Great Sir William Wallace after the battle of Falkirk”—presented to me by his Lordship in terms too flattering for me to repeat,—with a request “To pass it, on the event “of my decease to the man in my “Country who should appear to merit “it best, upon the same conditions “that have induced him to send it “to me.”—Whether easy or not to select *the man* who might comport with his Lordship’s opinion in this respect, is not for me to say, but conceiving that no disposition of this valuable curiosity, can be more eligible than the re-commitment of it to his own cabinet agreeably to the original design of the Goldsmith’s—Company of Edinburgh, who presented it to him, and at his request, consented that it should be transferred to me; I do give and bequeath the same to his Lordship, and in case of his decease, to his heir with my grateful thanks for the distinguished honor of presenting it to me, and more especially for the favorable sentiments

G. Washington

with which he accompanied it——

ITEM—To my brother Charles Washington
I give and bequeath the Gold-headed cane
left me by Doct'r Franklin in his will—¹⁹
——I add nothing to it because of the
ample provision I have made for his
issue——“——To the acquaintances and
friends of my juvenile years, Lawrence
Washington and Robert Washington ²⁰ of
Chotanck, I give my other two gold-headed
canes, having my arms engraved on them,
and to each (as they will be useful where
they live), I leave one of the spy glasses
which constituted part of my equipage
during the late war——To my com-
-patriot in arms and old and intimate
friend Doct'r Craik,²¹ I give my Bureau
(or as the Cabinet makers called it Tam-
-bour Secretary) and the circular chair,
an appendage of my study——To
Doct'r David Stuart I give my large
shaving and dressing Table, and my Tel-
-escope——To the Reverend, now
Bryan Lord Fairfax ²² I give a Bible ²² in
three large folio volumes with notes,
presented to me by the Right Reverend
Thomas Wilson, Bishop of Sodor & Man
——To General de la Fayette ²³ I give
a pair of finely wrought steel pistols
taken from the enemy in the Revolutionary
war——To my sisters in law

A large, elegant handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "G. Washington". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned at the bottom right of the page, below the main body of text.

Hannah Washington, and Mildred Washington;—To my friends Eleanor Stuart, Hannah Washington of Fairfield and Elizabeth Washington of Hayfield I give each a mourning Ring of the value of one hundred dollars——These bequests are not made for the intrinsic value of them, but as *mementos* of my esteem and regard——To Tobias Lear²⁴ I give the use of the farm which he now holds in virtue of a lease from me to him and his deceased wife (for and during their natural lives) free from Rent during his life, at the expiration of which it is to be disposed as is hereafter directed——To Sally B Haynie (a distant relation of mine) I give and bequeath three hundred dollars——To Sarah Green daughter of the deceased Thomas Bishop and to Ann Walker, daughter of Jno Alton, also deceased I give each one hundred dollars, in consideration of the attachment of their father to me, each of whom having lived nearly forty years in my family.—
——To each of my nephews William Augustine Washington, George Lewis, George Steptoe Washington.—Bushrod Washington, and Samuel Washington, I give one of the swords or *cutteaux* of which I may die pos-

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "G Washington". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned at the bottom right of the page, below the printed text.

-sessed, and they are to *chuse* in the order they are named.—These swords ^{24½} are accompanied with an injunction not to unsheath them for the purpose of shedding blood except it be for self defence, or in defence of their Country and it's rights, and in the latter case to keep them unsheathed, and prefer falling with them in their hands to the relinquishment thereof.

AND NOW,

Having gone through these specific devises, with explanations for the more correct understanding of the meaning and design of them, I proceed to the distribution of the more important parts of my Estate, in manner following

First—To my nephew Bushrod Washington and his heirs (partly in consideration of an intimation to his deceased father, while we were bachelors and he had kindly undertaken to superintend my Estate, during my military services in the former war between Great Britain and France, that if I should fall therein, Mt. Vernon (then less extensive in domain than at present) should become his property) I give and bequeath all that part thereof which is comprehen-

G. Washington

-ded within the following limits—viz:—
Beginning at the ford of Dogue Run
near my mill and extending along the
road and bounded thereby as it now
goes, and ever has gone since my
recollection of it, to the ford of little hunting
Creek, at the gum spring until it comes
to a knoll opposite to an old road
which formerly passed through the
lower field of Muddy-Hole Farm;
at which, on the north side of the
said road are three red or Spanish oaks
marked as a corner, and a stone placed—
—thence by a line of trees to be marked
rectangular to the back line, or
outer boundary of the tract between
Thomas Mason and myself,—thence
with that line easterly, (*now double*
ditching with a post and rail fence
thereon) to the run of little hunting
Creek, thence with that run, which
is the boundary of the lands of
the late Humphrey Peake and *me*,
to the tide water of the said Creek
thence by that water to Potomac
River, thence with the River to the
mouth of Dogue Creek, and thence
with the said Dogue Creek to the
place of beginning, at the aforesaid ford,
containing upwards of Four thousand
acres, be the same more or less
together with the Mansion House,

Wm. W. W. W.

and all other buildings and *improvements* thereon.——

Secondly—In consideration of the consanguinity between them and my wife, being as as nearly related to her as to my self, as on account of the affection I had for, and the obligation I was under to their father when living, who from his youth had attached himself to my person and followed my fortunes through the vicissitudes of the late Revolution, afterwards devoting his time to the superintendence of my private concerns for many years whilst my public employments rendered it impracticable for me to do it myself thereby affording me essential services, and always performing them in a manner the most filial and respectful; for these reasons I say, I give and bequeath to George Fayette Washington and Laurence Augustine Washington²⁵ & their heirs my Estate east of little hunting creek lying on the River Potomac, including the farm of 360, acres, leased to Tobias Lear as noticed before and containing in the whole, by deeds, Two thousand & twenty seven acres be it more or less which said Estate, it is my will and desire should be equitably and advantageously divided between them, according to quantity, quality & other circumstances when

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "George Fayette Washington". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned at the bottom right of the page.

the youngest shall have arrived at the age of twenty one years, by three judicious and disinterested men, one to be chosen by each of the brothers and the third by these two,—In the mean time if the termination of my wives interest therein should have ceased the profits, arising therefrom are to be applied for their joint uses and benefit

Third—And where'as it has always been my intention, since my expectation of having issue has ceased, to consider the grand children of my wife in the same light as I do my own relations and to act a friendly part by them, more especially by the two whom we have reared from their earliest infancy, namely, Eleanor Parke Custis and George Washington Parke Custis;²⁶ and whereas the former of these hath lately intermarried with Lawrence Lewis, a son of my deceased sister Betty Lewis, by which union the inducement to provide for them both has been increased.—Wherefore I give and bequeath to the said Lawrence Lewis and Eleanor Parke Lewis, his wife, and their heirs, the residue of my Mount Vernon Estate, not already devised to my nephew Bushrod Washington comprehended within the fol-

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "G Washington". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned at the bottom right of the page.

-lowing description,—viz—all the land north of the Road leading from the ford of Dogue Run to the Gum Spring as described in the devise of the other part of the tract to Bushrod Washington until it comes to the stone and three red or Spanish oaks on the knowl.—thence with the rectangular line to the back line (between Mr Mason and me)—thence with that line westerly, along the new double ditch to Dogue Run, by tumbling dam of my mill,—thence with the said Run to the ford aforementioned; —to which I add all the land I possess west of the said Dogue Run & Dogue Crk bonded, Easterly & Southerly thereby—together with the Mill, Distillery and all other houses and improvements on the premises making together about two thousand acres be it more or less

Fourth—Actuated by the principle already mentioned, I give and bequeath to George Washington Parke Custis the Grand son of my wife and my ward and to his heirs, the tract I hold on four mile Run in the *vicinity* of Alexandria containing one thousand two hundred acres more or less;²⁷—& my entire Square, number twenty one, in the City of Washington.—

Fifth—All the rest and residue of my Estate, real and personal, not disposed of in manner aforesaid—In whatsoever consisting—wheresoever lying, and whensoever found—a Schedule of which as far as is recollected, with a reasonable estimate of its value is hereunto annexed—I desire may be sold by my Executors at such times—in such manner, and on such credits (if an equal valid and satisfactory distribution of the specific property cannot be made without) as, in their judgment shall be most conducive to the interests of the parties concerned, and the monies arising therefrom to be divided into twenty three equal parts and applied as follows—viz:—

To William Augustine Washington Elizabeth Spotswood, Jane Thornton, and the heirs of Ann Ashton; son and daughters of my deceased brother Augustine Washington, I give and bequeath four parts—that is—one part to each of them.——“——“——“——“——

To Fielding Lewis, George Lewis Robert Lewis, Howell Lewis & Betty Carter, sons and daughter of my deceased sister Betty Lewis I give & bequeath five other parts—one to each of them

To George Steptoe Washington Laurence Augustine Washington, *Harriot*

E. Washington

Parks, and the heirs of Thornton Washington, sons and daughter of my deceased brother Samuel Washington, I give and bequeath other four parts, one part to each of them.——

To Corbin Washington, and the heirs of Jane Washington, son & daughter of my deceased brother John Augustine Washington, I give and bequeath two parts;—one part to each of them;——

To Samuel Washington, Francis Ball & Mildred Hammond, son and daughters of my brother Charles Washington I give and bequeath three parts—one part to each of them.——And to George Fayette Washington, Charles Augustine Washington and Maria Washington, sons and daughter of my deceased nephew, Geo: Augustine Washington, I give one other part—that is—to each a third of that part

To Elizabeth Parke Law, Martha Parke Peter, and Eleanor Parke Lewis I give and bequeath three other parts—that is, a part to each of them.——

And to my nephews Bushrod Washington & Lawrence Lewis,—and to my ward, the grand son of my wife, I give and bequeath one other part;—that is a third thereof to each of them—And if it should so happen, that any of the persons whose names are here enumerated (unknown to me) should now

G. Washington

be deceased, or should die before me, that in either of these cases, the heirs of such deceased, person shall, notwithstanding derive all the benefit of the bequest, in the same manner as if he, or she, was actually living at the time

And by way of advice, I recommend it to my Executors not to be precipitate in disposing of the landed property (herein directed to be sold) if from temporary causes the sale thereof should be dull, experience having fully evinced, that the price of land (especially above the Falls of the Rivers & on the Western Waters) have been progressively rising, and cannot be long checked in it's increasing value.—and I particularly recommend it to such of the Legatees (under this clause of my will) as can make it convenient, to take each a share of my stock in the Potomac Company in preference to the amount of what it might sell for; being thoroughly convinced myself, that no uses to which the money can be applied will be so productive as the Tolls arising from this navigation when in full operation (and this from the nature of things it must be 'ere long) and more especially if that of the Shanandoah is added thereto.—

G Washington

The family Vault at Mount Vernon requiring repairs, and being improperly situated besides, I desire that a new one of Brick, and upon a larger scale, may be built at the foot of what is commonly called the Vineyard Inclosure,—on the ground which is marked out.²⁸—In which my remains, with those of my deceased relatives (now in the Old Vault) and such others of my family as may *chuse* to be entombed there, may be deposited.—And it is my express desire that my Corpse may be interred in a private manner, without parade or funeral oration.—

Lastly—I constitute and appoint my dearly beloved wife Martha Washington, my nephews William Augustine Washington, Bushrod Washington George Steptoe Washington, Samuel Washington & Lawrence Lewis, & my ward, George Washington Parke Custis (when he shall have arrived at the age of twenty years) Executrix & Executors of this Will & Testament,—
—In the construction of which it will readily be perceived that no professional character has been consulted or has had any agency in the draught—and that, although it has occupied

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "G. Washington". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned at the bottom right of the page, below the main body of text.

many of my leisure hours to digest & to *through* it into its present form, it may notwithstanding, appear crude and incorrect—But having endeavored to be plain and explicit in all the Devises—even at the expense of prolixity, perhaps of tautology, I hope, and trust, that no disputes will arise concerning them; but if contrary to expectation the case should be otherwise from the want of legal expression, or the usual technical terms or because too much or too little; has been said on any of the devises to be consonant with law, my will and direction expressly is, that all disputes (if unhappily any should arise) shall be decided by three impartial and intelligent men, known for their probity and good understanding; two to be chosen by the disputants, each having the choice of one, and the third by those two.—which three men thus chosen, shall unfettered by Law, or legal constructions, declare their sense of the Testator's intention; and such decision is, to all intents and purposes to be as binding on the Parties as if it had been given in the Supreme Court of the United States.²⁹—

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "G. Washington". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned at the bottom right of the page, below the main body of text.

In witness of all and of
each of the things herein contained
I have set my hand
and seal this ninth
day of July, in the year
one thousand seven hun-
-dred and ninety* and of the
Independence of the
United States, the Twenty
fourth.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "George Washington". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned centrally below the main text of the will.

*It appears the Testator omitted the word "nine."

SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY *comprehended in the foregoing Will, which is directed to be sold, and some of it, conditionally is sold; with descriptive and explanatory notes relative thereto.*—

IN VIRGINIA.

	ACRES.	PRICE.	DOLLARS.	
LOUDOUN COUNTY—				
Difficult Run	300		6.666	(a)
LOUDOUN & FAUQUIER—				
Ashby's Bent	2,481	\$10	24.810	(b)
Chattin's Run	885	8	7.080	
BERKLEY—				
So. Fork of Bullskin, . . .	1,600			
Head of Evan's M	453			
In Wormley's Line, . . .	183			
	2,236	20	44.720	(c)
FREDERICK—				
Bought from Mercer . . .	571	20	11.420	(d)
HAMPSHIRE—				
On Potk. River above B.	240	15	3.600	(e)
GLOUCESTER—				
On North River	400	abt	3.600	(f)
NANSEMOND—				
Near Suffolk $\frac{1}{3}$ of } 1119 Acres }	373	8	2.984	(g)
GREAT DISMAL SWAMP—				
My dividènd thereof		abt	20.000	(h)
OHIO RIVER—				
Round Bottom	587			
Little Kanawha	2,314			
	2,901		\$124.880.	

SCHEDULE—Continued.

	ACRES.	PRICE.	DOLLARS.	
Amount brought over...	2, 901		124. 880	
16 miles lower down....	2, 448			
Opposite Big Bent.....	4, 395			
	<hr/>			
	9, 744	10	97, 440	(i)
GREAT Kanhawa—				
Near the mouth west...	10, 990			
East Side above.....	7, 276			
Mouth of Cole River....	2, 000			
Opposite thereto.....	2, 950			
Burning Spring.....	125			
	<hr/>			
	23, 341		200. 000	(k)
MARYLAND—				
Charles County.....	600	6	3. 600	(l)
Montgomery County....	519	12	6. 228	(m)
PENNSYLVANIA—				
Great Meadows.....	234	6	1. 404	(n)
NEW YORK—				
Mohawk River <i>abt.</i>	1, 000	6	6. 000	(o)
NORTH WEST TERRITORY—				
On little Miami.....	839			
Ditto	977			
Ditto	1, 235			
	<hr/>			
	3, 051	5	15. 251	(p)
KENTUCKY—				
Rough Creek.....	3, 000			
Ditto adjoin'g.....	2, 000			
	<hr/>			
	5, 000	2	10. 000	(q)
<i>Lots—viz:—</i>				
CITY OF WASHINGTON—				
Two near the <i>Capital Sqr</i> 634 }				
Cost \$963, and with <i>Buildgs.</i>			15. 000	(r)
	<hr/>			
Carried over.....			479. 803	

SCHEDULE—Continued.

	DOLLARS.	
Amt. brought over	479. 803	
LOTS—CITY OF WASHINGTON—		
No. 5, 12, 13 & 14, the 3 last water lots on the Eastern Branch in Sqr. 667, containing together 34,438 Sqr. feet at 12 cts. }	4. 132	(s)
ALEXANDRIA—		
Corner of Pitt and Prince Strts half an acre—laid out into buildgs 3 or 4 of wch are let on <i>grd</i> Rent at \$3 pr foot }	4. 000	(t)
WINCHESTER—		
A lot in the Town, of half an acre & another on the Commons of about 6 acres—supposed }	4 00	(u)
BATH—OR WARM SPRINGS—		
Two well situated & had buil- dings to the amount of £150. }	8 00	(u)
STOCK.		
UNITED STATES 6 PR CTS.	3, 746	
Do deferred 1, 873 {	2, 500	
3 prcts 2, 946 }	—	
	6. 246	(x)
POTOMAC COMPANY—		
24 Shares cost ea £100 <i>Sterl'g</i>	10. 666	(y)
JAMES RIVER COMPANY—		
5 Shares each cost \$100	5 00	(z)
BANK OF COLUMBIA—		
170 Shares—\$40 each	6. 800	} (c)
BANK OF ALEXANDRIA—besides 20 to the Free School 5 }	1. 000	
	<hr/>	
	514. 347	

SCHEDULE—Continued.

DOLLARS.

Amt. brought over

514. 347

Stock—living—viz.—

1 Covering horse, 5 *Coh*
horses—4 Riding do—Six
brood mares—20 work-
-ing horses & mares,—2
Covering Jacks & 3 young ones
10 she asses—42 working
mules—15 younger ones
329 head of horned cattle
640 head of Sheep, and
a large stock of hogs, the
precise number unknown—

My manager has estima-
-ted this live stock at £7,000
but I shall set it down in
order to make *sd* sum at—

15. 653

Aggregate amt:

\$530. 000

NOTES.

(a) This tract for the size of it is valuable; more for it's situation than the quality of it's soil, though that is good for farming, with a considerable portion of *gr'd* that might, very easily, be improved into meadow.—It *lies* on the great Road from the City of Washington, Alexandria and George Town to *Leesburgh* & Winchester, at Difficult bridge—nineteen miles from Alexandria—less from the City & George-Town, and not more than three from Matildaville at the Great Falls of Potomac—

There is a valuable seat on the premises—and the whole is conditionally—sold for the sum annexed in the Schedule

(b) What the selling prices of lands in the *vicinity* of these two tracts are I know not; but compared with those above the ridge, and others below them the value annexed will appear moderate—a less one would not obtain them from me.—

(c) The surrounding land, not superior in soil, situation or properties of any sort, sell currently at from twenty to thirty dollars an acre.—The lowest—price is affixed to these

(d) The observations made in the last note applies equally to this *tract tract*

NOTES.

being in the *vicinity* of them, and of similar quality, *altho* it *lye's* in another County

1732999

- (e) This tract though small, is extremely valuable—it *lyes* on the Potomac River, about twelve miles above the Town of Bath (or Warm Springs) and is in the shape of a horse-shoe, the River running almost around it.—Two hundred acres of it is rich low grounds; with a great abundance of the largest and finest Walnut Trees, which with the produce of the soil might (by means of the improved navigation of the Potomac) be brought to a shipping port with more ease and at a smaller expense than that which is transported 30 miles, only by land

- (f) This tract is of second rate Gloucester low ground—it has no improvement thereon, but *lyes* on navigable water abounding in fish and oysters: it was received in payment of a debt (carrying interest) and valued in the year 1789, by an impartial gentlemen to £800—N. B. it has *lettely* been sold and there is due thereon, a balance equal to what is annexed—the Schedule

- (g) These 373 acres *are* the third part of undivided purchases made by the deceased Fielding Lewis, Thomas Walker and myself, on full conviction that

NOTES.

they would become valuable,—the land *lye's* on the road from Suffolk to Norfolk touches (if I am not mistaken) some part of the navigable water of Nansemond River—borders on—and comprehends part of the rich Dismal Swamp; is capable of great improvement;—and from it's situation must become extremely valuable.

(h) This is an undivided interest *wh* I held in the Great Dismal Swamp Company, containing about 400 acres, with my part of the Plantation and Stock thereon belonging to the Company in the *s'd* Swamp

(i) These several Tracts of land are of the first quality on the Ohio River in the parts where they are situated;—being almost, if not altogether, River bottoms.—

—The smallest of these Tracts is actually sold at ten dollars an acre, but the consideration therefor, not received, the rest are equally valuable, and will sell as high, especially that which *lye's* just below the little *Kanhawa*, and is opposite to a thick settlement on the west side the River.

—The four tracts have an aggregate breadth upon the River of Sixteen miles and is bounded thereby that distance.

(k) These tracts are situated on the Great *Kanhawa* River, and the first

NOTES.

four are bound thereby for more than forty miles.—It is acknowledged by all who have seen them (and of the tract containing 10,990 acres which I have been on myself, I can assert) that there is no richer, or more valuable land in all that Region;—They are conditionally sold for the sum mentioned in the schedule—that is \$200.000 and if the terms of that sale are not complied with, they will command considerably more.—The tract of which the 125 acres is a moiety, was taken up by General Andrew Lewis and myself for on account of a bituminous spring, which it contains, of so inflammable a nature as to burn as freely as spirits, and is as nearly difficult to extinguish.

(l) I am but little acquainted with this land, although I have once been on it.—It was received (many years since) in discharge of a debt due to me from Daniel Janifer Adams, at the value annexed thereto, and must be worth more.—It is very level, *lies* near the River Potomac.

(m) This tract *lies* about 30 miles above the City of Washington not far from *Killtoctan*.—It is good farming land, and by those who are well ac-

-quainted with it, I am informed that it would sell at twelve or \$15. pr acre

(n) This land is valuable on account of it's local situation and other properties.—It affords an exceeding good stand on Braddock's Road from Fort Cumberland to *Pittsburgh* and besides a fertile soil possesses a large quantity of natural meadow fit for the scythe.—It is distinguished by the appellation of the Great Meadows, where the first action with the French in the year 1754 was fought

(o) This is the moiety of about 2000 *acres* which remains unsold of 6071 acres on the Mohawk River, (Montgomery Ct'y) in a Patent granted to Daniel Coxe in the Township of *Coxebourgh & Carolaca* as will appear by deed from Marinus Willet & wife to George Clinton (late Governor of New York) and myself; The latter sales have been at six dollars an acre and what remains unsold will *fetch* that, or more

(p) The quality of these lands & their situation may be known by the surveyor's certificates, which are filed along with the patents—They *lye* in the *vicinity* of Cincinnati, one tract near the mouth of the little Miami, another seven, & the third

NOTES.

ten miles up the same—I have been informed that they will readily command more than they are estimated at.—

- (q) For the description of these tracts in detail, see General Spottswood's letters filed with the other papers relating to them—
—Besides the general good quality of the land, there is a valuable bank of Iron Ore thereon;—which when the settlement becomes more populous (and settlers are moving that way very fast) will be found very valuable, as the rough creek, a branch of Green River affords ample water for furnaces and forges.

LOTS,—Viz:

CITY OF WASHINGTON—

- (r) The two lots near the *Capital* in Square 634, cost me \$963 only, but in this price I was favoured on condition that I should build two brick houses, three storys high each;—without this reduction, the selling price of those lots would have cost me about \$1350.
—These lots with the buildings thereon when completed will stand me in \$15,000 at least
- (s) Lots No. 5, 12, 13 & 14 on the Eastern Branch are advantageously situated on the water, and although many lots

much less convenient, have sold a great deal higher, I will rate these at 12 cts the square foot only.

ALEXANDRIA.

- (t) For this lot, though unimproved I have refused \$3500. it has since been laid off into proper sized lots for building on, three or four of which are let on ground Rent forever at three dollars a foot on the street, and this price is asked for both fronts on Pitt & Princess streets.——

WINCHESTER.

- (u) As neither the lot in the Town or common have any improvements on them it is not easy to fix a price, but as both are well situated it is presumed the price annexed to them in the Schedule is a reasonable *valuⁿ*

BATH.

- (v) The lots in Bath (two adjoining) cost me to the best of my recollection, between fifty and sixty pounds, 20 years ago & the buildings thereon, £150 more.—whether property there has increased or decreased in it's value, and in what condition the houses are, I am ignorant, but suppose they are not valued too high

STOCKS.

- (x) These are the sums which are actually funded, and though no more in the aggregate than \$7566. stand me in at least Ten thousand pounds in Virginia money, being the amount of bonded and other debts due to me, and discharged during the war, when money had depreciated in that ratio and was so settled by public authority.
- (y) The value annexed to these shares is what they have actually cost me, and is the price affixed by law;—and although the present selling price is under par, my advice to the Legatees (for whose benefit they are intended, especially those who can afford to *lye* out of the money) is that each should take and hold one; there being a moral certainty of a great and increasing profit arising from them in the course of a few years——
- (z) It is supposed that the shares in the James River Company must also be productive—But of this I can give no decided opinion for want of more accurate information.
- (&) These are nominal prices of the Shares of the Bank of Alex-

andria & Columbia, the selling prices vary according to circumstances but as the stock usually divided from eight to ten per cent per annum, they must be worth the former, at least, so long as the Banks are conceived to be secure, although circumstances may some time below it

The value of the live stock depends more upon the quality than quantity of the different species of it and this again upon the demand, and judgement or fancy of purchasers.
Mount Vernon,
9 July, 1799.

George Washington

At a Court held for the County of Fairfax the 20th day of January³ 1800, this last Will and Testament of George Washington, deceased, late President of the United States of America, was presented in Court by George Steptoe Washington, Samuel Washington, & Lawrence Lewis, three of the Executors therein named, who made oath thereto, and the same being proved by the oaths of Charles Little, Charles Simms and Ludwell Lee, to be in the true hand writing of the said Testator, as also the *Scedule* thereto annexed, and the said Will, being sealed and signed by him on motion, Ordered to be Recorded—And the said Executors having given Security and performed what the Laws require, a Certificate is granted them for obtaining a probate thereof in due form.

TESTE:

G. GENEALE, *Cl: Fx:*

R. L. H. *fo: 1*

Ex^d* by

G. GENEALE, *Cl: Fx:*

* This endorsement of the clerk is intended to represent that the will &c is "Recorded Liber H. folio 1 and Examined."

NOTES OF THE PUBLISHER.

Note 1, page 1.—GEORGE WASHINGTON. The progenitor of the Washingtons, of whom this Testator was one, seems to have been William De Hertbern, of Norman origin, whom we find in the century succeeding the conquest of William, in possession 'of certain estates held of the Bishop de Pusaz in knight's fee, situated in Durham, England. The surname De Hertbern was taken from a village on the Palatinate which he held of the Bishop, supposed to be the same now called Hartburn on the banks of the Tees. The first actual mention we find of the family is in the Bolden Book. In this it is stated that William de Hertbern had exchanged his village of Hertburn for the manor and village of Wessyngton in the same diocese, paying the bishop certain quit-rents, &c.—This occurred in 1183, the earliest data to which we can trace, and it seems that from this period forward the family assumed the name of De Wessyngton.† About the time of the reign of Henry VI. the *de* or *d'* was generally dropped from surnames, and the title of *armiger equire* amongst the heads of families, and *generosus* or *gentleman*, among younger sons substituted; and we find the family name of the Testator to vary from Wassyngton to Wassington, Washington, and finally to Washington. The branch of the family to which our Washington immediately belongs, sprang from Lawrence Washington, Esq., of Gray's Inn, son of John Washington, of Warton in Lancashire. This Laurence Washington received from Henry VII., in 1538, the grant of the manor of Sulgrave, in Northamptonshire, and was known in 1620 as "Washington's Manor." We have little note of the Sulgrave branch of the family after the death of Charles I. and the exile of his successor. In 1655 the persecutions of Cromwell drove many of the adherents of the house of Stuart from England, and many of their party who had no share in the conspiracy, sought refuge in other lands. This may have been the case with two brothers, John and Lawrence ‡ Washington, great grandsons of the grantee of Sulgrave. These brothers arrived in Virginia in 1657, and purchased lands in Westmoreland county, on the northern neck, between the Potomac and Rappahannock rivers. John married a Miss Annie Pope, of the same county, and resided at Bridges Creek, § near where it falls

* Irving's Life of Washington, Vol. I, folio 4.

† Probably of Saxon origin. We find the village of Wassengtone mentioned in a Saxon charter granted by Edgar, 973, to Thorney Abbey, prior to the conquest.—*Irving*, i. 5.

‡ Mr. Irving has it "Andrew." From all the facts in our possession, *Lawrence* was the name of the brother who accompanied John.

§ Bridges Creek, for generations, was the family place of sepulture.

into the Potomac. We afterwards find him as Colonel of Virginia forces, co-operating with those of Maryland against a band of Seneca Indians. His grandson, Augustine Washington, the father of our Washington, was born at Bridge's Creek in 1694. He was twice married; first (April 20, 1715), to Jane, daughter of Caleb Butler, Esq., of Westmoreland county, by whom he had four children, of whom only two, Laurence and Augustine, survived the years of childhood; their mother died November 24, 1728, and was interred near the remains of Col. Washington, at Bridge's Creek. On the 6th of March, 1730, he married in second nuptials, Mary, daughter of Colonel Ball, the belle of the Northern Neck. By her he had four sons, George, Samuel, John Augustine, and Charles; and two daughters, Elizabeth, or Betty as she was commonly called, and Mildred, who died in infancy.

George, the eldest, the American soldier, statesman and patriot, was born 22d February, (11th, O. S.,) in the old Washington homestead on Bridge's Creek.

This house commanded a beautiful view over many miles of the Potomac, and opposite shore of Maryland; it contained four rooms on the ground floor, and others in the attic. Such was the birth place of our great and loved Washington. Not a vestige now remains of it; only a stone * marks the site of the "old low-pitched farm house," and an inscription denotes its being the birth place of Washington, whose life and wonderful achievements as a soldier and statesman, are written as with a sunbeam upon the brilliant historic page which records the memorable struggle and liberation of the infant colonies, from the tyranny of the mother country, and chronicles the stupendous growth of the vigorous young Republic during the first eight years of its existence.

Washington's close identification with the early history of our country during *his entire life* is without a parallel in the history of men or nations. Of all the *great and good men* our country has produced, he, whom the gallant Lee aptly called "*The Father of his Country*," stands foremost in the eyes of our own people, and in the estimation of mankind. The whole world is filled with his glory, and even after the moons of a century have come and gone, the radiance of his glorious character shines with a lustre the ages cannot dim. Let all men study the life and character of this truly wonderful man. Let him ever be cited as a model for all who aspire to fame, for their imitation in every duty which adorns and dignifies distinguished men.

Note 2, page 1.—"MT. VERNON." Familiar as this American Mecca is to all, it is useless to add either engraving or description here. It is sufficient to say that this spot, the chosen home of Washington, and the place of his death and burial, is in the county of Fairfax, Virginia, lying on the Potomac river, 8 miles below Alexandria, and sixteen from Washington city. It was inherited by Laurence Washington from Augustine Washington, his father, and the father of George

* Placed there by George W. P. Custis, Irving Vol. 1.

Washington, in April, 1743, and was named by him, Mount Vernon, in honor of Admiral Vernon, of the English Navy, with whom he had been intimate in the campaigns in West Indies in 1741-42. After his death (26th July, 1752,) Mount Vernon descended to George Washington. It was willed by General Washington to his nephew, Bushrod Washington, son of John Augustine Washington, after whose death it descended to his son, John Augustine Washington, (who was, while aid to General R. E. Lee with the rank of Colonel, killed near Cheat Mountain, in September, 1861.) In 1847 there was an effort made to secure an appropriation of \$100,000 from Congress, for the purchase of Mount Vernon. Mrs. Jane C. Washington, then proprietress of the Estate, was willing to dispose of the property on the following terms.

The remains of General Washington and of every other member of the family then in the family vault were never to be removed therefrom.

Every member of the Washington family then living, (and no one else) who might desire it, could be buried there, and the remains were not to be removed afterward.

The government were never to sell, rent, nor give the whole or any portion of the property to any third party. *In the event of a dissolution of the existing federal government, the property was to revert to the heirs of John A. Washington, her eldest son; and lastly, the sum of \$100,000 in money, or U. S. six per cent. stock, running not less than ten, nor more than twenty years, with interest, payable semi-annually, shall be paid to Mrs. Jane C. Washington or to her duly authorized agent, upon the conveyance of the property to the United States. Mrs. Washington was empowered by the will of her deceased husband to sell the property to the U. S. Government.**

In 1855, Mrs. Ann Pamela Cunningham and other ladies conceived the plan of forming an association, the object of which should be the purchase of Mount Vernon, or that portion including the dwelling, tomb, and present steamboat landing. In the Spring of 1856, the matter was brought before the Legislature of Virginia, then in session, and on the 17th March, 1856, the association was incorporated as "The Mount Vernon Ladies' Association of the Union," and is as follows, viz:

"CHAP. 298.—An ACT to incorporate the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association of the Union, and to authorize the purchase of a part of Mount Vernon.

Passed March 17, 1856.

Whereas, it appears to the general assembly, that the ladies of the United States, acting in the name and style of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association of the Union, have undertaken to raise, by individual subscriptions, a fund to purchase and improve two hundred acres of Mount Vernon, with the generous and patriotic design that the estate so purchased shall include the late mansion as well as the tomb of

General George Washington, and shall thereby be converted into public property and forever held by the State of Virginia, sacred to the memory of the Father of his country. And whereas it also appears that there has been already a large sum subscribed and paid in by them for the purposes aforesaid, and that it is desired by said association that the State of Virginia shall receive said money, and hold and take care thereof for said association until an amount is obtained sufficient to accomplish said purpose:

1. Be it therefore, by the general assembly enacted, that the treasurer of this commonwealth shall receive into the treasury all the money or moneys offered to him by the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association of the Union, or by others in their behalf, and shall keep the same therein, except upon orders from the governor of Virginia. The fund so raised shall be styled and known by the name of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association Fund. But nothing herein shall be construed so as to make it obligatory on said association, or any branch or agency thereof, in any State, to pay or deposit their money in said treasury.

2. The said treasurer shall keep separate accounts for this fund, and shall report its amount and condition to the governor every six months, and to the general assembly at every session held while said fund is in his custody. He shall also procure, at the cost of the commonwealth, two books of proper size, and shall transcribe into each, in fair hand, the names of the contributors to the fund, and the sum contributed by each, so far as those names and respective sums are furnished to him by said association. One of these books shall be kept forever in the archives of Virginia, and the other shall be deposited in the least destructible part of any monument or other improvement which may be hereafter erected on said Mount Vernon.

3. The governor of this commonwealth is hereby authorized and required to obtain, as soon as practicable, from John A. Washington, his heirs or assigns, a contract, signed and sealed by him, and binding him to convey, by proper deed to the State of Virginia, two hundred acres of land, out of said Mount Vernon, at any time within five years from the passage of this act, that the said governor pays to him the sum of two hundred thousand dollars.

4. The said deed of conveyance shall be in fee simple, reserving to the said grantor to inter, in or around the family vault, any and all members of the Washington family, legally descended from the said John A. Washington; and the further right to maintain, perpetually, the interment of those already there. It shall recite that the purchase money was paid by the ladies of the United States, acting in the name and style of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association of the Union, and at their instance the said conveyance is made to the state of Virginia. And it shall covenant that the estate so conveyed shall be kept free from injury and desecration, and held in trust for said association, forever sacred to the memory of George Washington, whose mortal remains shall be kept perpetually thereon. And then upon this further trust, that the said estate shall be subject to visitation by the state of Virginia

and to such proper and becoming improvements as the said association shall desire and determine to make. But in default of said association making such proper and becoming improvements, or keeping the same in proper repair, upon such default being found by a board of visitors, then said estate shall be subject to improvement and repair at the pleasure of the state of Virginia; and to this end, the possession of said estate shall vest in said state.

5. The said two hundred acres of ground shall include the tomb of George Washington, mansion, garden, grounds, and the wharf and landing now constructed on the Potomac river.

6. The governor shall invest the money paid into the treasury on account of said association, as soon as convenient after he has notice thereof, in stock, or in loans to individuals or to corporate bodies, on good and sufficient security, real and personal; at an interest of six per centum per annum, to be paid semi-annually, as may to said governor seem best; and the profits arising from such investment shall also be semi-annually invested, or as soon thereafter as the same can be profitably done. And the said governor shall so continue to invest said fund and the profits thereof until the same amount to the sum of two hundred thousand dollars; and shall thereupon proceed to pay the same to said John A. Washington, and receive from him the aforesaid deed of conveyance. The governor shall, in like manner invest all and any money of said association which is paid into said treasury for the purpose of improving said estate.

7. The said association may charge, receive and collect, any fee which may be prescribed, not exceeding twenty-five cents from each and every person over ten years of age, who may land at and visit Mount Vernon and the grave, tomb or other place containing the remains of General Washington; but no greater sum or fee shall be charged or collected in any case.

8. The governor of Virginia shall annually appoint and commission five fit and proper men, who shall constitute a board of visitors for Mount Vernon, with the ordinary powers of a board of visitors, whose duty it shall be to visit that place and examine and faithfully report to the governor all the proceedings of said association touching Mount Vernon, and the manner in which they comply or fail to comply with this act and other laws of the land. The expenses of said board shall be paid out of the treasury of this commonwealth in the same manner that the expenses of other boards of visitors are paid.

9. The said association are hereby declared and made a body politic and corporate for the purpose of raising money to purchase and improve the aforesaid two hundred acres of land out of Mount Vernon, and to possess and manage the same as indicated and provided for in this act, under the name and style of The Mount Vernon Ladies' Association of the Union; and shall be subject to all the provisions, and entitled to all the rights, powers, privileges and immunities prescribed in the first and second sections of the fifty-sixth chapter of the Code of Virginia, in so far as the same are applicable to and not inconsistent with the provisions

of this act. But the said association shall not be entitled to the benefit of the foregoing provisions in this section until they shall have prepared a constitution and by-laws for said corporation, and have the same approved by the governor of this State; and shall also file a copy thereof, so approved, in the office of the secretary of the commonwealth.

10. This act shall be in force from its passage."

And on the 19th day of March, 1858, was, by said Legislature, amended as follows, viz:

1. Be it enacted by the general assembly, that the act entitled an act to incorporate the "Mount Vernon Ladies' Association of the Union" and to authorize the purchase of a part of Mount Vernon, passed March 17, 1856, be amended and re-enacted so as to read as follows:

"§ 1. The Mount Vernon Ladies' Association of the Union as heretofore organized, shall be and they are hereby constituted a body politic and corporate, under the name and style of The Mount Vernon Ladies' Association of the Union; and by this name and style, shall be subject to all the provisions, and entitled to all the rights, powers, privileges and immunities prescribed by existing laws in so far as the same are applicable to like corporations, and not inconsistent with this act.

"§ 2. It shall be lawful for the said Mount Vernon Ladies' Association of the Union, to purchase, hold and improve two hundred acres of Mount Vernon, including the late mansion as well as the tomb of George Washington, together with the garden, grounds and wharf and landing now constructed on the Potomac river; and to this end they may receive from the owner and proprietor of the said land, a deed in fee simple; and shall have and exercise full power over the use and management of the same, as they may by by-laws and rules declare, provided, however, that the said Mount Vernon Ladies' Association of the Union, shall not have power to alien the said land, or any part thereof, or to lease the same without the consent of the general assembly of Virginia first had and obtained.

"§ 3. The capital stock of the said Mount Vernon Ladies' Association of the Union, shall not, including the two hundred acres of land aforesaid, exceed the sum of five hundred dollars. The said association, in contracting with the proprietor of the same, may covenant with him so as to reserve to him the right to inter the remains of such persons whose remains are in the vault at Mount Vernon as are not now interred, and to place the said vault in such a secure and permanent condition as he shall see fit, and to inclose the same so as not to include more than a half acre of land; and the said vault, the remains in and around it, and the inclosure, shall never be removed nor disturbed, nor shall any other person hereafter ever be interred or entomb within the said vault or inclosure.

"§ 4. The said property herein authorized to be purchased by the said Mount Vernon Ladies' Association of the Union shall be forever

held by it sacred to the Father of his country; and if, from any cause, the said association shall cease to exist, the property owned by the said association shall revert to the commonwealth of Virginia, sacred to the purposes for which it was originally purchased."

2. This act shall be in force from its passage.

And on the 6th day of April, 1858, Mrs. Ann Pamela Cunningham Southern Matron, Regent, on behalf of the Association, entered into an agreement with John A. Washington for the purchase of Mount Vernon, or at least, that part now held by them (the original tract contained 4,000 acres) conditioned for the payment of \$18,000 in cash; one bond of the said Association for \$57,000, payable 1st January, 1859, one other bond of said Association for \$41,666.66, payable 22d February, 1860, one bond of said Association for \$41,666.67, on 22d February, 1862, with lawful interest on each of the bonds from their dates. And retaining in him, the said John Augustine Washington, his heirs and assigns, the title to the property aforesaid, with the possession thereof, until the sum of two hundred thousand dollars, with all the interest which may accrue as hereinafter mentioned, shall have been fully paid to him or them."* (This condition appears in the said agreement before the dates and amounts of the bonds are inserted.)

A short time prior to the breaking out of the late war, the Association effected an arrangement by which they were enabled to discharge the entire amount of their indebtedness and to cancel all their bonds.

Colonel Hollingshead is at present the Agent of the Association at Mt. Vernon. Visitors will find him attentive and obliging.——

Note 3, page 1.—"EVERY PAGE." It will be observed that this resolution was overlooked at page 23, probably from the word Washington (the city) having been the last word on the page and mistaken for his own name.

Note 4, page 1.—"LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT." The last Will and Testament of George Washington, admitted to probate and executed as such, was written, as will be seen by its perusal, in the summer of 1799, and dated the 9th day of July of that year, but a few months prior to his death. It will be found singularly complete and minute in its description and disposition of his immense estate, and these facts are but in keeping with the traits that marked every act and effort of his wonderful career. As he was always ready in time for every duty of his life, so he would seem to have finished just in time, the last worldly preparation for death—for in spiritual readiness he had been long prepared, and having "set his house in order," there was nothing to shackle his spirit in the last struggle with the great Conqueror. As the last will and testament of the Father of his Country is of peculiar interest to all who cherish his memory, we have deemed it important that a short history of it should be here inserted. As we have

* The entire agreement is recorded in Liber A, No. 4, folios 19 &c., of Fairfax County Land Records.

before stated, it was written in the summer of 1799,* and dated the 9th day of July, and it would seem the testator omitted the word "nine" after "seventeen hundred and ninety" in dating his will, however, it is very certain it was intended to have been so written, as he finishes the sentence thus, "and of the independence of the United States the twenty-fourth."

On the morning of the 14th December, 1799, between 10 and 11 o'clock, the great and good man departed this life. "A few moments before he expired," writes Mr. Lear, he made several efforts to speak. At length, he said I am just going. Have me decently buried, and do not let my body be put in the vault in less than three days after I am dead.

He then looked at me again and said, "do you understand me? I replied, yes. 'Tis well," said he. These were the last words that passed the lips of the Christian Soldier and Statesman. His funeral took place at Mt. Vernon, December 18th, 1799, without that pomp and parade that usually attends the obsequies of great Generals or Statesmen. The Rev. W. W. Davis, read the funeral service at the vault, and pronounced a beautiful and affecting address. After which the Masons (to which order Washington had been attached for many years,) performed their solemn ceremonies, and the body was placed in the vault. †

At a Court held for the County of Fairfax on the 20th day of January, 1800, the will of which this is a copy) was presented in open Court by *George Steptoe Washington, Samuel Washington, and Laurence Lewis*, three of the executors mentioned in said will; and they making oath thereto, and the same being proved by the oaths of Charles Little, Charles Simms, and Ludwell Lee, to be in the true handwriting of the testator, as also the Schedule and Notes thereto attached, on motion the same were ordered to be *recorded*,‡ and a certificate was granted said executors for obtaining probate thereof in due form."

This order was taken by the County Court of Fairfax, Virginia, and entered up by George Deneale, then Clerk of said Court.§ As Fairfax County contains Mount Vernon and the remains of our loved Washington, we deem it pertinent, and as a matter of general interest, to give, in brief, the general outlines of its formation and other matter connected with its history. It was in 1741 a part of Prince William County, but in 1742, by an act of the Virginia Assembly, Fairfax was created a separate county, with the Potomac River as its northern and eastern boundary, Bull Run as its southern boundary, and Loudoun County as its western boundary; and in the fall and winter of the same

* The first will of General Washington was drafted in 1775 by his personal friend, Colonel Edward Pendleton [Member of the first Congress and the venerable presiding judge of the high Court of appeals of Virginia.] Vide letter of Washington to his wife, dated Phila., June 18th, 1775. Niles Register Vol. 366, 367.—

† Irving.

‡ Recording Liber H. No. 1, folios No. 1, 2, &c., of the Records of Fairfax County, Virginia.

§ See copy of Order after Washington's Notes.

year (1742) an organization of the County was completed, with its Courts, &c. Catesby Cooke, Gent., was the first Clerk of the Court, whose commission was given by John Robinson, Secretary of the Colony of Virginia under the reign of George II., at Williamsburg, December —, 1742, and qualified as such — December, 1742, and was recorded * in Liber A, No. 1, folios 1 and 2, of said County records. After the death of Catesby Cooke, which occurred in 1746, John Graham was, by Thomas Nelson, under authority from William Adair, then Secretary of said Colony, appointed to succeed him, by commission dated at Williamsburg, December 9, 1746. After this period, the power being vested in the Court to choose their Clerk, we find Peter Waggener to have succeeded John Graham, by a record of 17th October, 1752. Mr. Waggener remained Clerk of said County until his decease, which occurred in 1798, when we find by records of May 21, 1798, George Deneale, Esq., to have been appointed Clerk, being the fourth since the organization of said County, before whom the Executors of the last will and testament of George Washington qualified. Subsequent to this period, the County was, by an act of the Virginia Assembly, extended, taking a portion from Loudoun County, making Sugar-Land Run the western boundary and dividing line between that portion of Fairfax and Loudoun. In 1800 the Virginia Assembly ceded that portion of Fairfax which is now known as Alexandria County, to the General Government, to comprise that portion of the District of Columbia on the south side of the Potomac which was afterwards retroceded to the State of Virginia, and is now known as Alexandria County. It is her pride to boast of men in whose veins course the blood of *Washington, Lees, the Masons, Fairfaxes*, and many other old and time-honored families whose members have been *Virginia's* and their *Country's* brightest ornaments as soldiers, statesmen, and jurists, and who, as their fathers did, "always keep the latch-string out to both stranger and friend."

In 1853, Alfred Moss (now deceased), then clerk of the County Court of said County, asked the Legislature of Virginia the privilege of withdrawing the original will of General George Washington from the County Records, for the purpose of having it lithographed, and on the 22d March, 1853, the following act was passed:

"1. Be it enacted by the general assembly, that Alfred Moss, the Clerk of the County Court of Fairfax, be and he is hereby authorized, under the direction, and with the permission of the County Court of Fairfax, to withdraw from the records of the County Court of Fairfax, the original Will of General George Washington, and to carry the same beyond the limits of the Commonwealth, and to entrust the same to the custody of an engraver, to be selected by him for the purpose of having said original Will lithographed; provided, however, that the said Alfred Moss shall, before removing the said Will, satisfy the said County Court

* The sheet containing folios 1 and 2 was torn from Liber A by Federal soldiers while Fairfax C. H. was occupied by them during the late war. The original manuscript on which the commission was written, with the signature of the Secretary of the Colony, (John Robinson,) and *Seal* of said Colony, is now in possession of the Publisher of this volume.

of Fairfax, that he has taken the necessary steps to insure the safe keeping of the said Will while in the hands of the engraver, and to cause the same to be restored to the files of the County Court, after the same shall be lithographed.

"2. This Act shall be in force from its passage."

And afterwards, the said Court having given their consent to the same, Mr. Moss endeavored to have the Will lithographed, but from causes unknown, he never accomplished his purpose, and until now the Will has never been published. Washington Irving, in his life of Washington, publishes only a part of it; and we find upon comparing his publication with the *original* that the *portion* he gives as taken from it, is entirely incorrect.* In July, 1861, when the Confederate army fell back from Fairfax C. H., Mr. Moss *carefully enveloped* Washington's Will, endorsing thereon:

"The original Will of

GENERAL GEORGE WASHINGTON.

Belongs to the Records of Fairfax County Court. To be returned to me, or any one legally authorized to receive it.

ALFRED MOSS, CLERK.

Fairfax County Court."

The will with other Records of his Court, was then carried to Richmond, Virginia, and the will deposited with George W. Mumford, Esq., then Secretary of the Commonwealth of Virginia. In 1862, Henry T. Brooks, who had been elected to fill the Clerkship thus vacated by Alfred Moss, published over his signature, an article which was copied in many of the papers of the Northern press, stating that Mr. Moss "had taken away the will of General Washington, and that it had been *sold*, and was then on exhibition in the *British Museum*." As both of these gentlemen died before the close of the late war, we would say, in *justice* to them, that Mr. Brooks had been *imposed* upon by some one, or had been badly *informed* as to its whereabouts, and that great *injustice* was done Mr. Moss. Mr Moss having died in the fall of 1862, Mr. Thomas Moore, his deputy, was appointed in the following spring, Clerk, *pro tempore*, of said Court. In a conversation with Mr. Moore, he remarked that in the spring of 1863, he, as said Clerk, called upon Mr. Mumford, who assured him of the safety and preservation of the will. He permitted it to continue with the Secretary of the State, where it remained until the summer of 1865, when Mr. O. W. Hunt, who had been selected by the County Court of said County, to look up the missing record and papers of their Court, received it from Mr. Lewis, then occupying the position formerly held by Mr. Mumford, who stated that the will had been found in his office among the papers lying scattered by Federal soldiers, on the floor of one of the rooms. Mr. Munt returned the will, with other records, &c., to the

* Vide Irving's life of Washington, V., folio 358.

County, where it is now on file in charge of Ferdinand D. Richardson, the present Clerk of said Court; and though from frequent handling has been considerably torn, and can only be deciphered with the greatest patience, and by comparing with the record heretofore referred to, yet is eagerly sought for, and read by those visiting Fairfax Co. II. In consideration of its condition, the Court, at its November Term, 1865, passed the following order:

"It appearing to the Court that the original will of General George Washington, of Mount Vernon, has been much worn and mutilated from frequent handling, and that it is liable to further injury from the same cause: it is ordered that the Clerk of this Court purchase, at the expense of the County, a suitable case in which he is directed to deposit the said will."

This order was not carried into effect by Mr. William H. Fitzhugh, then Clerk, from what cause we did not learn, but were informed by Mr. Richardson that it was his intention to carry out the order as soon as he could have a suitable case constructed, which is to be of glass, that parties visiting his office in search of it may look upon, without handling it.

Note 5, page, I.—"MARTHA WASHINGTON." General Washington first met her in 1758 at Mr. Chamberlayne's near the Pamunky, a branch of the York river, while he was on his way from Winchester to Williamsburg to lay before the military council there assembled, the destitute condition of the Virginia troops. At this time, says Irving, "she was a young and blooming widow, Mrs. Martha Custis, daughter of John Dandridge, both patrician names in the provinces." Her husband, John Park Custis, had been dead about three years, leaving her with two young children.* She is represented as being rather small in stature, but extremely well formed, with a pleasant countenance, dark hazel eyes and hair, with those frank, engaging manners so peculiar to, and captivating in, Southern ladies. Added to these attractions, she was possessed of a large fortune. It seems that though Washington was on urgent business, requiring immediate attention, he for once deviated from his usual *prompt attention* to business entrusted to his care, and instead of leaving Mr. Chamberlayne's that evening, as contemplated, orders for the horses were countermanded, and it was not until next morning that he was again in the saddle for Williamsburg.

The *White House*,† the residence of Mrs. Custis, was in New Kent County, but a short distance from that city. So he had frequent opportunities to visit the beautiful and fascinating young widow: and we have no doubt that while at Williamsburg he had both engaged her affection and hand, for we are told by Irving,‡ that immediately after the reduction of Fort Duquesne,§ and the French domination of the

* John Parke Custis and his sister. This young lady died at Mount Vernon, in the 27th year of her age, on the 19th of June, 1773.

† From which the President's mansion in Washington derived its name.

‡ Irving's *Life of Washington*, Vol. I, 264.

§ Now Pittsburg.

Ohio being at an end, and quiet once more restored to his native province, he retired from the service. His marriage with Mrs. Cripps took place shortly after his return. It was celebrated on the 6th of January, 1759, at the White House, the residence of the bride, in the good old hospitable style of Virginia, amid a joyous assemblage of relatives and friends.

It does not fall to the lot of many women to have *two* such noble men for husbands as had Martha Dandridge. Her first husband, Col. Custis, was a most amiable, high-toned, conscientious man, he was warmly loved by many, and highly respected by all who knew him.

"It is related of him, that when on his death-bed, he sent for a tenant, to whom, in settling an account, he was due one shilling. The tenant begged that the Colonel, who had ever been most kind to his tenantry, would not trouble himself at all about such a trifle, as he, the tenant, had forgotten it long ago. "But I have not," rejoined the just and conscientious landlord, and bidding his creditor take up the coin, which had been purposely placed on his pillow, exclaimed, "now my accounts are all closed with this world, and shortly after expired."—*Port Folio*."

Note 6, page 2.—"SHALL RECEIVE THEIR FREEDOM." "From private letters which we have been kindly permitted to peruse, and from many expressions used by him in his will, it seems that it had long been his earnest wish to emancipate the slaves held by him *in his own right*;" but from causes that appear manifest in the perusal of his will, and show his great forethought and kind consideration of them, it was impracticable and grating to the kind feelings of his good and generous heart. But when we consider that after providing for the loved one whom God had given him as a companion for earth's pilgrimage, the first object that engaged his attention was his loving and faithful slaves, we must at once see of how great magnitude this great and good Southern soldier, statesman and patriot, considered this great, moral evil, slavery, though born and educated a slaveholder. In a letter to John F. Mercer, of Virginia, in September, 1786, he writes: "I never mean, unless some particular circumstances should compel me to it, to possess another slave by purchase, it being among my *first* wishes to see some plan adopted by which slavery in this country may be abolished by law." *

"And eleven years afterwards, in August, 1797, he writes to his nephew, Lawrence Lewis, which we have in our hands, "I wish from my soul that the legislature of this State could see the policy of a gradual abolition of slavery. It might prevent much future mischief."† How prophetic! Had one been inspired by the Almighty, he could not have spoken with more truth. He saw that sectional hatred being engendered and nurtured on its account which burst upon our once happy country in 1860-61 like some destroying angel of the avenging gods. Washington was not alone in his views upon this subject. Jefferson and many other prominent men of their day were of the same opinion.

* Irving's Washington, V. folio 288.

† Irving's Washington, Vol. 5, folio 299.

Note 7, page 2.—"DOWER NEGROES." These Negroes he only had a life interest in by his marriage with Mrs. Custis, and at her death, as a matter of course, went to heirs of her husband, John Parke Custis, hence he says, "it not being in my power, under the tenure by which the dower negroes are held, to manumit them." Mrs. Martha Washington, in 1801, manumitted all the slaves she held in her own right. This deed of manumission was recorded in Liber C. Co., folio 323, of Fairfax County Record, and lost during the war, therefore we cannot arrive at the number thus liberated.

Note 8, page 2.—"SUPPORT THEMSELVES." We find that there were many of this class, and were a heavy expense, supported by the Executors out of the proceeds of his estate for numbers of years; as late as the year 1832, when the last estate account of Washington was settled by John A. Washington, Executor of Bushrod Washington, the last surviving executor of the will, we find the estate charged as having paid out for rent, clothing, provisions, coffins and funeral expenses, the sum of \$788.05. The last item of these charges being for funeral expenses of *three free negroes*, \$12.00, dated December 31, 1829. *

Note 9, page 3.—"TO READ AND WRITE." This provision of the will was never carried into effect, as the statutory laws of the State of Virginia expressly prohibited schools for the instruction of negroes.

Note 10, page 4.—"WILLIAM," (calling himself William Lee) was the body servant and constant attendant of Washington during the Revolutionary war, and until his injuries incapacitated him for the position. After this, Christopher became his favorite servant, and attended him with that fidelity, affectionate watchfulness and anxiety that has ever been the marked characteristic of the Southern slave when kindly treated and well cared for. William has become quite famous, having had as many as five different funerals, and each claiming to be that of the original William; once he died in North Carolina, once in Missouri, and once in Arkansas; and we are of opinion that we have seen two accounts stating that the original William had died at different times in New York; the last time occurring in the winter of 1887. The William, of whom in all probability these accounts are mere fabrications, most likely died at his master's old homestead, Mount Vernon.

Note 11, page 4.—"ALEXANDRIA ACADEMY." The corner stone of this institution was laid on the 7th of September, 1785, by the Alexandria Lodge (No. 39) of Free Masons, of which Lodge Washington was a member; he was also a patron and one of the Trustees of the Academy. The building was erected and is yet standing on the lot at the corner of Washington and Wolfe Streets. The late Dr. Elias Harrison, of Alexandria, Virginia, was one of the Professors in the days of its prosperity. Many of the students of this institution became eminent men, amongst whom were General R. E. Lee, the late Senator

* Will Book Q, folio 262, Fairfax County Records.

Pearce, of Maryland, and others. The old Academy building in the course of time became private property; and the corporate authorities of Alexandria assumed the Trusteeship of the Washington endowment, and built a larger structure for the accommodation of a greater number of pupils, and the name changed from "Alexandria Academy" to that of "Washington School." Col. S. King Shay, an old and respected citizen of Alexandria, is now its principal, and at different times in charge eighteen years, once for sixteen consecutive years.

Note 12, page 6.—For many years Washington had been convinced of the practicability of an easy and short communication between the Potomac and James rivers and the waters of the Ohio, thence to the great chain of northern lakes, and saw plainly the immense advantages that must finally accrue to his native State, Virginia, and had gone so far as to attempt the organization of a company to undertake at their own expense, the opening of such communication, but the breaking out of the American Revolution put a stop to the enterprise. In 1784, in company with Dr. Craik, he visited the waters of the Ohio, Kanhiawa, and other western waters of his State, to make observations and collect information on the subject. After his return, upon his suggesting the opening of said communication, Benjamin Harrison, the Governor of Virginia, being struck with his ideas of the plan for opening the navigation of the western waters, laid the matter before the State Legislature. Washington immediately repaired to Richmond. He arrived there on the 15th day of November, 1784, and in the latter part of December of the same year, we find him at Annapolis, at the request of the Virginia Assembly arranging matters with the Assembly of Maryland, respecting the communication between the Potomac and western waters. Through his individual exertions and influence, two companies were formed under the fostering care of these States, for opening the navigation of the Potomac and James rivers, and he was immediately appointed president of both.

By a unanimous vote of the Virginia Assembly, in 1785, fifty shares in the Potomac, and one hundred shares in the James River company, were appropriated for his benefit. The aggregate amount of these shares was about \$40,000. This seems greatly to have embarrassed him, as the reader will perceive. He at first declined, but subsequently accepted the shares, upon condition that he should be permitted to appropriate them to public uses, which condition the Virginia Legislature accepted. Thus, to our loved Washington, do we owe the vast and incalculable benefits derived from these great inland water communications.

In this connection, a little scrap from the daily advertiser published at Rochester, N. Y., in 1827, may be of interest to the reader. It is as follows:

"Washington the projector of the Erie Canal.—It appears from a letter written by Mr. Jared Sparks and addressed to Hon. Jos. Story in the Summer of 1827, (whilst the former was at Mt. Vernon engaged

in examining manuscript papers and letters of General Washington preparatory to the publication of his great work) that shortly after the close of the Revolutionary war, Washington, in a letter referred to by Mr. Sparks, predicted that a water communication would be opened through the western part of the state of New York, and spoke of the immense benefits that would certainly result from such a work, &c. &c.—

Note 13, page 9.—"UNIVERSITY" In his message to Congress, convened January 8, 1790, he says that furnishing the means of higher education at the seat of government was "well worthy of a place in the deliberations of the Legislature." Seven years later, in 1797, in his last appeal to Congress on the subject, he says of the assimilation of the principles, opinions and manners of our countrymen, by the common education of a portion of our youth from every quarter, that "the more homogeneous our citizens can be made in these particulars, the greater will be the prospect of a permanent union." It seems this coveted desire was never carried into effect, and the fifty shares thus donated reverted to the estate.

Note 14, page 10.—"LIBERTY HALL ACADEMY," now WASHINGTON and Lee University, had its origin in a classical school established before the war of American Independence, by the early settlers of the Valley of Virginia.

During the period of its infancy, it was sustained by the munificence of its founders, who secured for it in 1782, its present charter, the school bearing the name of LIBERTY HALL ACADEMY until 1708, when it was styled WASHINGTON ACADEMY, in honor of its great benefactor, and subsequently, WASHINGTON COLLEGE.

The Virginia Legislature, attesting their appreciation of the unexampled merits of GEORGE WASHINGTON, in October, 1704, passed an act vesting in him one hundred shares in the James River Navigation Company, which he declined, except on condition that the Legislature would permit him to transfer the donation to some object of a public nature. In compliance with the wishes of Gen. WASHINGTON, the Legislature substituted for the act of October, 1784, an act of October, 1785, providing that this fund be conveyed to him to be applied as he might indicate. Gen. WASHINGTON determined to appropriate this gift of Virginia to the endowment of an institution of learning upon the upper waters of James river, and accordingly, by his will, conveyed it to LIBERTY HALL ACADEMY. This munificent endowment now yields to the College the interest upon \$50,000 annually.

Subsequently, the CINCINNATI SOCIETY, an organization composed of Revolutionary Officers, and having for its object the relief of indigent persons of this class, after accomplishing the purposes for which they organized, determined to convey the funds in their treasury to some public institution, and influenced, as they avowed, by the example of Gen. WASHINGTON, bestowed the gift upon WASHINGTON COLLEGE. From this donation the College now enjoys an endowment of \$23,000.

In 1826, JOHN ROBINSON, of Rockbridge County, Virginia, a revolutionary soldier, bequeathed to the same object, his estate, which yielded about \$40,000, and enabled the Trustees to increase, very materially the philosophical apparatus and the buildings of the College. In acknowledgment of this generous bequest, the "*Robinson Professorship of Physical Science*" was established.

Thus thrice endowed so liberally by revolutionary heroes, WASHINGTON COLLEGE became a seat of learning to which were attracted many young men of Virginia and other States, whose influence became conspicuous in the pulpit, the forum, and the halls of legislation—among whom may be named the ALEXANDERS, the STUARTS, the McDOWELLS, the PRESTONS, and many others that fill an enviable place in the history of our country.

In the Spring of 1861, the College was enjoying a full share of public patronage, but its regular exercises were interrupted, and for a time suspended altogether. The students, animated by the spirit that moved the young men of the South generally, organized themselves into a military company, joined the immortal JACKSON at Winchester, and for four years shared the fortunes of the STONEWALL BRIGADE, winning from their illustrious commander the designation of "*more than brave young men.*" Many of them do not survive to witness the present prosperity of their Alma Mater.

In the month of June, 1864, Gen. DAVID HUNTER, occupied the town of Lexington, and under his eyes the College that bore the name and enjoyed the munificence of GEORGE WASHINGTON, was sacked: its chemical and philosophical apparatus destroyed, and its libraries, to a great extent, ruined.

The Board of Trustees, at a meeting held in the summer of 1865, took steps to repair these desolations, in which they have been, to a gratifying extent, successful; and in order to establish the Institution on a firmer footing than it ever before held, upon the acceptance of the Presidency by General R. E. LEE, they resolved to expand the sphere of its operations, and, by an enlarged scientific course to give it a place among the first institutions of the land, thus responding emphatically to the material wants of the country.

Mr. C. H. McCORMICK, a Virginian, born and reared in the vicinity of Washington College, and now a wealthy citizen of New York, bestowed the generous gift of \$15,000 by which the Trustees have been enabled to establish the "*McCormick Professorship of Experimental Philosophy and Practical Mechanics.*"

The late Mr. WARREN NEWCOMB, of New York City, made the liberal donation of \$10,000, and thus rendered essential aid in filling other chairs.

Mr. RATHMELL WILSON, of Philadelphia, desiring to repair the damage done the College Library by the troops under command of Gen. David Hunter, donated a large number of rare and valuable

books belonging to the library of his brother, the late THOMAS B. WILSON, whose name is conspicuously associated with the Academy of Natural Sciences, and the Entomological Society of Philadelphia. General G. W. Custis Lee, is President of the Institution, having succeeded General R. E. Lee. A catalogue recently received, contains the names of 196 students.

Note 15, page 11.—That generous, fatherly affection and charity which had ever marked his treatment of and liberality toward relatives, is here prominently displayed in providing for the transfer of this property in question, since none of the parties had legal titles thereto.

Note 16, page 13.—This provision of his Will was strictly and religiously carried into effect. It would seem that Bartholomew Dandridge left his estate considerably involved, and to liberate so large a number of the working force on the plantation of his widow immediately, would have created great distress to her and her children, and would have turned upon the charity of the County or State many old and decrepit, as well as young and helpless slaves, unable to shift for themselves: hence this wise provision.

Note 17, page 14.—"BUSHROD WASHINGTON," son of John A. Washington, said to have been the favorite nephew of the general, was born June 5th, 1762, in Westmoreland County, Va. Died December, 1829. "He was at an early age admitted to the bar of his native State, and arrived at such eminence in his profession, that at the age of 36 years he was selected by President Adams as a Justice of the Supreme Court of the U. S.

For 31 years he held that important station, with a constantly increasing reputation and usefulness. Few men, indeed, have possessed higher qualifications for the office, either natural or acquired. Few men have left deeper traces, in their judicial career, of every thing which a conscientious judge ought to propose for his ambition or his virtue, or his glory. His mind was solid, rather than brilliant; sagacious and searching, rather than quick or eager; steady but not unyielding; patient in inquiry, forcible in conception, clear in reasoning. He was, by original temperament, mild, conciliating, and candid; and yet he was remarkable for an uncompromising firmness. Of him it may be truly said that the fear of man never fell upon him; it never entered into his thoughts, much less was it seen in his actions. In him the love of justice was the ruling passion, it was the master-spring of all his conduct. Like his distinguished uncle, (the General) he made it a matter of conscience to discharge every duty with scrupulous fidelity and scrupulous zeal. It mattered not whether the duty were small or great, witnessed by the world, or performed in private, every where the same diligence, watchfulness, and pervading sense of justice, were seen. His honesty was a deep, vital principle, not measured out by worldly rules. His wisdom was the wisdom of the law, chastened and

refined and invigorated by study, guided by experience, dwelling little on theory, but constantly enlarging itself by a close survey of principles.

He was a learned judge. As a magistrate, he was exemplary and able, one whom all may reverence, and but few may hope to equal.

He was, in private life, beloved by all; there was a daily beauty in his life, which won every heart. He was benevolent, charitable, affectionate, and liberal in the best sense of the term. He was a christian, full of religious sensibility and religious humility. The departure of such a man, severs so many ties, interrupts so many delights, withdraws so many confidences, and leaves such an aching void in the hearts of friends, and such a sense of desolation among associates, that, while we bow to the decree of Providence, our griefs cannot but pour themselves out in sincere lamentations."* To this eminently distinguished man, and to his son, Col. John A. Washington, do we owe the preservation of all the valuable papers and relics of the *great chief*.

Note 18, page 15.—"GR. KANUAWA." We find in many of the writings, both historical and private, the Kanawha thus spelt, and we have no doubt that it is the proper spelling of the Indian name from which it was taken. The pronunciation would remain the same.

Note 19, page 15.—"IN THE COUNTY OF LOUDOUN." This is clearly an error, as the County of Loudoun never embraced that portion of Fairfax. This tract is situated on Difficult run, near where it crosses the Pike leading from George Town to Leesburg, Virginia, and was sold by Washington's executors to the Sheppards, of Fairfax, and is now owned by Mr. Thomas Peacock, of said County.

Note 19½, page 17.—Extract from the Will of Dr. Benjamin Franklin. "My fine crabtree walking-stick with a gold head, curiously wrought in the form of the cap of Liberty, I give to my friend, and the friend of mankind, General Washington. If it was a sceptre, he has merited it, and would become it." This cane is now the property of the people of the U. S., having been presented through Congress.† So, also, the canes bequeathed to Lawrence and Robert Washington, all three of which are to be seen among the valuable and interesting relics of the great chief, at the Centennial.

Note 20, page 17.—"LAWRENCE AND ROBERT WASHINGTON." We are not advised as to whether or not any relationship existed between them and the testator, but from this clause, and no evidence that any did, we are inclined to the belief they were, as he says, "acquaintances and friends of my juvenile years."

Note 21, page 17.—"DR. CRAIK." Dr. James Craik, a gentleman who probably enjoyed as much, if not more, of Washington's confi-

* From a Sketch written in 1829 for "Boston advertiser" by Mr. Justice Story, [an associate of Justice Washington] upon hearing of the death of the latter, Mr. Story says, in a letter of that date, "I wrote it without rising from the table. *It is my sincere estimate of his character.*"—

† See interesting account of Niles Register, Vol. 63, 1843, p. 339.

dence and esteem than any other man, and who attended him in his last illness, was a young Scotchman, well bred, and of superior mind and attainments. He, like Dr. Hugh Mercer, of Revolutionary fame, fled from Scotland after the defeat of Charles Edward, at Culloden, and settled in the Colony of Virginia. He was commissioned on the same day that Washington was, as an officer in the war against the French and Indians; and we find him with Washington at Great Meadows, in May, 1754, as Surgeon of a Virginia Regiment, and during the continuance of this war we find him intimately connected with him. Again we find him, in 1777, with Washington. "About this time, (May, 1777,) Washington had the satisfaction of drawing near him his old friend and traveling companion, Dr. James Craik, the same who had served with him in Braddock's campaign, and had voyaged with him down the Ohio; for whom he now procured the appointment of assistant director-general of the Hospital department of the middle district, which included the States between the Hudson and the Potomac. In offering the situation to the doctor, he writes: 'You know how far you may be benefited or injured by such an appointment and whether it is advisable or practicable for you to quit your family and practice, at this time. I request, as a friend, that my proposing this matter to you may have no influence upon your acceptance of it. I have no other end in view than to serve you.' " * This position he filled to the entire satisfaction of his friends, and with great credit to himself. After the termination of the Revolution, he located in Alexandria, Virginia, where he continued the practice of his profession until his death. He continued through life the attached and devoted friend of Washington.†

Note 22, page 17.—"REV., NOW BRYAN LORD FAIRFAX." was the brother of George William Fairfax, and son of old Lord Fairfax, of Belvoir notoriety, but who, at the breaking out of the Revolutionary war, and for some time prior, (1752 or 3,) resided at Greenway Court, near Winchester. Lord Fairfax was a great admirer of Washington's military genius, as well as his great moral worth and intelligence. During the French war we find that he was frequently in Washington's camp, near Winchester, aiding the young commander with his counsels or his sword. Washington had been, from his early youth, warmly attached to the Fairfaxes; owing, probably, in part, to the intimacy which existed between him and them,—his brother, Lawrence Washington, having married the daughter of the Hon. William Fairfax, of Fairfax County—and his frequent visits to Belvoir. When Washington presided as moderator of a public meeting, held by the inhabitants of Fairfax County, to discuss the recent acts of the British parliament, and was appointed chairman of a committee to draw up resolutions expressive of the sentiments of that meeting, and to report the same to a general meeting of the County, to be held at the Court

* See Irving's Washington, Vol. v, folio 294, &c.

† Irving's Washington, Vol. III, folio 68.

House on the 18th of July, 1774, he saw, and with painful emotions, that "the course that public measures were taking, shocked the loyal feelings of his valued friend, Bryan Fairfax."* When the news of Lexington reached Mount Vernon, Bryan Fairfax was Washington's guest. Irving says, "The worthy and gentle-spirited Fairfax deplored it deeply." He saw too plainly that all his pleasant relations in life must be broken up and his dearest friends arrayed against the government to which he was loyally attached and had determined to adhere. This had rendered his situation among his former friends embarrassing and unpleasant, and while he disapproved of the measures of the British government which had severed the colonies from England, yet he was, as we have above intimated, loyal to his king. He therefore determined to go to England and remain until peace should be restored to his loved colony, Virginia. To effect this purpose he visited Washington, at that time with the army at Valley Forge. Washington, who knew his feelings best, and respected his conscientiousness, we are told, received him with that warm cordiality of former and happier days, for with him he brought recollections dearest to his heart, of Mount Vernon and Belvoir, happy days of invigorating pleasures on the beautiful banks of Virginia's noble old Potomac. As it was Mr. Fairfax's intention to embark at New York, Washington furnished him with the necessary papers to insure his safety to that city. After arriving there, the conscience of Mr. Fairfax would not permit him to take the oaths required to secure his passage to England; he therefore obtained permission from the British commander to return to his home in Virginia, where he continued to reside until his death, which happened in 1802, at seventy-five years of age. He became proprietor of Belvoir, and after the death of his father, heir to the family title, but the latter he never assumed. In the latter part of his life he became a clergyman of the Episcopal Church. Old Lord Fairfax, of Greenway Court, Washington's early friend and patron, lived to be an aged man, at his beautiful retreat in the Shenandoah, and at his death had attained his ninety-second year. The reverend historiographer of Mount Vernon records his death in homely prose and verse, thus:

"When old Lord Fairfax heard that Washington had captured Lord Cornwallis and all his army, he called to his black waiter, "Come, Joe! carry me to bed, for it is high time for me to die!

Then up rose Joe, all at the word,
And took his master's arm,
And thus to bed he softly led
The lord of Greenway farm.
There oft he called on Britain's name,
And oft he wept full sore,
Then sighed—thy will, oh Lord, be done—
And word spake never more."

[See Weems' *Life of Washington*.]

* Irving's *Washington*, Vol. I, folio 354.

Though frank and open to his adherence to Great Britain, he lived unmolested by the Whigs, and was popular and highly respected by his neighbors.

Note 22¹/₂, page 17.—This Bible, in a fine state of preservation, can now be seen at the Bookstore of Messrs. Porter & Coates, Chestnut Street, Philadelphia.

Note 23, page 17.—GENERAL (Gilbert Mottier) DE LA FAYETTE was born on the 6th of September, 1757, was married in 1774, when not quite 18 years of age, to the Comtesse Anastasie de Noailles, daughter of the Duke de Noailles, a young lady of rare beauty and possessing an immense fortune. La Fayette himself had an ample income at the time of his marriage. When the Declaration of Independence was promulgated abroad, when the story of America's wrongs and of her heroic struggle for liberty reached the ears of the noble young Frenchman, he resolved to leave his newly married wife, and all the pleasing and delightful associations of home, and give his personal assistance, free of charge, to the patriot cause across the sea. Not all the blandishments of rank and fortune, the endearments of conjugal love, made doubly so by promise of offspring, nor the sad tales of reverses to the American arms at the close of 1776, which every vessel from our shores carried to Europe, could repress his zeal or deter him from the execution of his noble purpose.*

He offered his services to Silas Deane, one of the American Commissioners at Paris. At this juncture, Dr. Franklin arrived. He was greatly pleased with the young Marquis and the disinterested zeal which he exhibited, but *honestly advised him* to abandon his design until better hope for success should appear. But this candid advice was of no avail. The Commissioners had not sufficient credit to command the means to fit out a vessel for the purpose of conveying the Marquis and his friends, with arms, ammunition and stores to America, so La Fayette offered to purchase a ship with his own funds. "Hitherto," he said in the spirit of true heroism, "I HAVE ONLY CHERISHED your cause, now I am going to SERVE IT. The lower it is in the opinion of the people, the greater effect my departure will have; and since you can not get a vessel, I shall purchase and fit out one, to carry your dispatches to Congress, and me to America." †

He set sail accompanied by Baron DeKalb and eleven other French, German and Polish officers, all of whom were anxious to aid the patriot cause.

They landed at Georgetown, South Carolina, the 19th of April, 1777. On the 31st July, following, Congress appointed La Fayette a Major General in the Continental Army. The following preamble and resolution appear on the Journals of Congress of that date: ‡

* Lossing's Field Book of the Revolution, II, 119.

† Gordon II, 219.

‡ Journals of Congress, III, 247.

"WHEREAS, the Marquis De La Fayette, out of his great zeal to the cause of liberty, in which the United States are engaged, has left his family and connections, and, at his own expense, come over to offer his services to the United States without pension or particular allowance, and is anxious to risk his life in our cause:

"*Resolved*, That his service be accepted, and that, in consideration of his zeal, illustrious family and connections, he have the rank and commission of Major General in the army of the United States."

Washington arrived in Philadelphia soon after La Fayette's appointment, and they were first introduced to each other at a dinner party, where several members of Congress were present.

When they were about to separate, Washington took the Marquis aside, complimented him upon the noble spirit he had manifested toward the cause of the Americans, and invited him to become a member of his military family. His kind invitation was joyfully accepted, and while he remained in America the closest intimacy existed between La Fayette and the Commander-in-chief.

After the surrender at Yorktown, La Fayette returned to France, and by his own exertions was raising a large army of allies for America, when intelligence of peace reached him.*

The following anecdote of the surrender at Yorktown, and which concerns the subject of our sketch, was published in the "N. Y. National Advocate" 1818. "Baron Steuben commanded in the trenches at the moment Lord Cornwallis made his overture for capitulation. The proposals were immediately depatched to the Commander-in-Chief.

The Marquis de la Fayette, whose turn it was next to mount guard in the trenches, marched to relieve the Baron, who, to his astonishment, refused to be relieved. He informed General de la Fayette, that the custom of European war was in his (the Baron's) favor, and that it was a point of honor which he could neither give up for himself, nor deprive his troops of—that the offer to capitulate had been made during his guard, and that in the trenches he would remain until the capitulation was signed or hostilities commenced.

The Marquis immediately galloped to headquarters and stated the case to the chief. Washington decided in favor of the Baron—to the joy of one, and to the mortification of the other of those brave, noble, and valuable men. LaFayette died in 1834, aged 77 years.

The glorious acts of this pure disinterested friend of America, are familiar to every reader of American history. The blessings of this great nation, in whose service he freely and without compensation risked so much, shall always be his. His precious memory will be embalmed for all time in the American heart.

Note 24, page 18.—"TOBIAS LEAR." A native of New Hampshire, and graduate of Harvard College. Washington had long had him in his service as private secretary and preceptor to his adopted children, George Washington Parke Custis and sister.

* Lossing F. B. R. II, 112.

Note 24¹, page 19.—"THESE SWORDS," have all been presented by the Washington heirs to the people of the United States, through Congress. They are usually to be seen among the valuable Washington relics in the Patent office at Washington City. During the Centennial Exposition they may be seen in the Government building in Fairmount Park.

Note 25, page 21.—"These two gentlemen were sons of Lund Washington, who, though bearing the same name, and as has been said, of the same stock, does not appear to have been in any near degree of relationship. He was for years manager of Washington's Mount Vernon estate, during the American revolution, and it was to him that he wrote from the American camp at Cambridge, in 1775, a short time before he was joined by his family, the celebrated letter in regard to the hospitality of Mount Vernon, which we here insert. Says he: "Let the hospitality of the house, with respect to the poor, be kept up. Let no one go hungry away. If any of this kind of people should be in want of corn, supply their necessaries, provided that it does not encourage them to idleness; and I have no objection to you giving my money in charity to the amount of forty or fifty pounds a year, when you think it well bestowed. What I mean by having no objection is, that it is my desire it should be done. You are to consider that neither myself nor wife is now in the way to do these good offices."

Note 26, page 22.—"ELEANOR PARKE CUSTIS AND GEORGE WASHINGTON PARKE CUSTIS." These were the children of John Parke Custis, the only child of Mrs. Washington by her first husband, Col. John Parke Custis, that lived to its majority. They were, when very young, adopted by Washington.

Note 27, page 23.—This is the tract now known as "Arlington," which the late war has made historic, as "Arlington Height." After the death of George W. P. Custis, it descended to General Robert E. Lee, who had married the daughter of Mr. Custis, and is now held by the United States as confiscated property, and used as a national Cemetery for the Union soldiers, and a home for *Freedmen*.

Note 28, page 27.—This was done not long after his death, and is the one in which his remains, with others of his family, are deposited.

Note 29, page 28.—From a careful examination of Records, and after having made diligent enquiry, we can safely say that, though so large and valuable an estate was distributed among so many legatees, yet not one dispute sufficient to cause litigation ever arose.

